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Bridgewater State Normal School

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J. C. Sammons.

Normal Offering.

VOL. I. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, BRIDGEWATER, MASS., MARCH, 1887. No. 2.

The Normal Offering.

Published monthly during the School Year, by the Lyceum of the
Bridgewater State Normal School.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

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The OFFERING is strictly a school paper, and all members of the school are requested to contribute.

Ex-members and graduates of the school are requested to keep us informed of their whereabouts, and of any other items of interest.

Articles for publication should be sent in before the 5th of the month.

Address communications to "THE NORMAL OFFERING" Normal Hall, Bridgewater, Mass.

The Editors reserve the privilege of rejecting any articles which are not deemed satisfactory.

HENRY T. PRATT, Printer, Bridgewater, Mass.

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ALL, as we are well aware, being absorbed in school work and so desirous to gain all that is possible during our short stay here, it is with no little trepidation that we approach the

members of the school and request them to donate a little of their time and a few of their thoughts to our newly established paper. It is to be acknowledged that we cannot blame our friends for feeling as they do about this matter, but we can certainly say that in order to have our efforts crowned with success, the aid of the present members of the school and of the graduates is solicited as an indispensable element for the continuance of the paper.

The excuses given are varied but in few cases are they at all satisfactory. Lack of time, lack of practice, subjects and often lack of thoughts of any kind greets our ear and as a result the labor is divided among a few who are willing to do their duty and who generally have less time to spare for it than a majority of the others. Each should take his part, we do not expect articles which will move the world, all we ask for is the effort and we feel certain that we shall be so overwhelmed with contributions as to need—a waste basket. What a glorious anticipation, a waste basket filled with rejected manuscripts, poems strewn around upon our table, future Shakespeares and Miltons patronizing us with their to-be-world-renowned productions. This is a dream yet to be realized. At present we shall be satisfied to reject essays on "picnics," quadrupeds, autobiographies of needles, pins, etc., if it will only cause a revival of composition, for of course we do not expect "Human Genius" or the "Incomprehensibilities of the Infinite" to be taken as subjects at this early stage of the work. Poems, even when written after the style of "Mary's Little Lamb," sometimes show talent which is very encouraging to the editors, who foresee very surprising results.

Again consider the advantages derived, not only for the public but for yourself, the distinct ideas, definite arrangement, etc., the influence,—it is well said, the pen is mightier than the sword, and if you have not yet soared so high as to essay to bring your productions before the critical eyes of the

world, we entreat you to do so at once, no longer hiding your candle under a bushel but letting your light shine forth as an encouragement for others.

THE time before evening study hours is, at present, well occupied by the gentlemen in preparing for the long-talked-of minstrel entertainment. The manager, with the aid of the other parties concerned, is doing his best to prepare a first-class program, and intends, if possible to present one which shall excel that presented in February of last year. Having had experience, the members of the committee believe they are able to do this. Experience has also taught them that to avoid the inconvenience of too large an audience there should be some definite system of admission accordingly tickets to the number of four hundred are to be issued, for distribution to the pupils and their friends, gratis. Tickets may be had by application to the committee which consists of Messrs. Hobart, Andrews, Boylston, Lincoln, Scully, Spear and Wormley.

The committee wishes to express its thanks for the generous contributions, received from the ladies and others interested, which has served much to encourage its members in their work.

The entertainment will be given on the 8th of April in the School Hall.

THE long-desired telescope has come and is in use. We extend most hearty thanks to all who by their contributions have enabled us to pursue with increased pleasure and profit our study of the heavenly bodies. The telescope is one of Alvan Clark & Sons' of Cambridgeport which is a sufficient guarantee of good workmanship. The instrument is portable, the tube and adjustable finder being easily removed from the cradle which is mounted upon a substantial wooden tripod. The object glass has a diameter of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches and a focal length of about 5 feet. Four celestial eyepieces magnify 44, 85, 170, and 375 diameters, respectively, and the terrestrial eye-piece 50 diameters. In addition there are the usual right angle and shades for viewing the sun, a right angle for convenience in observing stars near the zenith, and a hand rod for following the heavenly bodies in their apparent motions. It will be a pleasure

to show the telescope to all graduates who may desire to examine it.

THE collection of Useful Products has been transferred from No. 10 to the rear of No. 5. What was the book closet has become a working Geographical Cabinet. This is arranged to accord with the regular geographical work of the public schools. The department of Minerals includes the Common Minerals, Rocks, Soils and their respective products. Plants are divided, first, according to climate, Hot, Warm Temperate, Cold Temperate, Cold; second, according to their usefulness to man, into Food, Drink, Spice, Medicinal, Clothing, Dye Plants, Building Woods, and Miscellaneous. So far as is practicable and possible, the whole plant, the part used, and the manufactured products are represented. The Animals, divided according to climate and grouped by classes, are represented chiefly by the manufactured products. Additional reference is made to the Botanical and Zoological cabinets in No. 10. All this work is greatly aided by several thousand pictures cut from books and papers and mounted upon cardboard.

WE may well congratulate ourselves on the high standard of merit of the "general exercises" which we have so thoroughly enjoyed this term. Stirring questions, for which the time devoted to one day's exercise will not suffice, have been brought before us for our consideration. Each student is called upon to enter into the spirit, and meet the question and its answer, as if it were put him to personally, as indeed it is.

We can scarcely realize the true worth and fullness of meaning which lie hidden in these exercises till we are where we cannot listen to them, only as they come to us through the long lines of memory, and until we are called upon to conduct similar exercises in our own schools, where we must be master, and lead through careful questioning and well-directed thought to the results which we wish to attain.

And our success as teachers, depends, in a great measure, on our ability to do this. It was with true interest and genuine pleasure, I heard a student remark, the other day, "I like these gen-

eral exercises. They do me good. They're just what I need. And I don't believe we half realize what they are to us."

Every Wednesday morning questions of moral worth are brought up. One late question, "Which are you most interested in, 'Formation of Character,' or 'Pursuit of Study'?" seems to have created an interest which went beyond school sessions, and formed the topic of conversation for many of the students outside. Then we believe since these exercises are so valuable to us, and since they are so thoughtfully and carefully conducted, we should improve the opportunities which they present to us, and give our best selves to them, while we may.

HOW SHALL TEACHERS OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT?

SHALL it be through the agencies? Then pay your registration fee of two or three dollars and when a position is known, you will be sent with some half dozen others to apply. The more applicants sent the better for the agency, for it has so many the more chances of receiving its exorbitant commission of four or five per cent of the first year's salary amounting to a sum between twenty and fifty dollars. That the service rendered is equivalent to so great a compensation, no one can maintain, that an intelligent class of people such as teachers are presumed to be should submit to such extortion is a matter of wonder. And yet hundreds of teachers patronize these concerns, which are thereby enabled to occupy spacious and handsomely furnished offices on the principle thoroughfares of the city and employ clerks and secretaries who seem to have enough to do all the time.

Under such high sounding titles as "Bureau," "Association" and the like they flourish and every year or so brings forth a new one. As the number increases competition requires sharper methods of business and new means must be devised for getting the inner track. One of these is the offer of a bonus or share of the commission to anyone who will notify the agency of a school in need of a teacher, provided the agency succeeds in filling the place and getting a commission therefrom. And

here is where an evil is likely to step in which will be the occasion of much injustice. Let the following illustrate; some time ago, a teacher applied for a school in a town some twenty miles from Boston. He was informed by the committee that they were well satisfied to employ him but would not do so unless he applied through one of the agencies in Boston. He was therefore obliged to go to Boston, register and pay a commission to the agency named.

Now while justice as well as charity requires us to think of no one as guilty until so proven, still does not the conduct of this committee suggest a division of the spoils between committee and agency? And may it not be that in the future other committeemen may be led to engage in similar transactions at the expense of unfortunate teachers? We are led to consider this question the more seriously when we think of the large number of towns which continually receive their teachers from one particular agency.

In view of the above it becomes our duty to devise some means of saving young teachers from the necessity of resorting to this way of getting employment. It may be done in a very simple manner if teachers will but remember that they are the interested parties and that their emancipation must and can be effected by themselves alone. Two steps are necessary: first, to make a firm and unalterable resolution not to patronize an agency; second, to form together into an association for mutual aid in obtaining situations.

This association might be represented by a secretary who would have on hand the applications of those who need situations. Each member should make it his duty to immediately inform the secretary of all vacancies which he did not wish to apply for himself, and in this way the association might develop until it became so widely known that committees would recognize it as a means of obtaining teachers. Having no pecuniary interests at stake, it would not forfeit the confidence of committees as the agencies often do, by recommending for positions persons unfitted to hold them and thus would in time supplant the agencies in favor of the committee, while the absence of commission would recommend it to the preference of teachers.

It is to be expected that some time will be re-

quired to bring this about. It looks almost discouraging at first but let us remember that the most wide spread and powerful organizations sprang from most insignificant beginnings. The Young Men's Christian Association had its birth in a little society formed not many years ago by a London clerk. Other cases might also be cited but this is enough to show what might be done if a few earnest and determined teachers should join together and form a nucleus upon which an extensive and world-wide organization might be developed. We hope that all teachers who read these lines will give the matter the consideration its importance deserves.

MARCH.

Ah, passing few are they who speak,
Wild, stormy month! in praise of thee;
Yet, though thy winds are loud and bleak,
Thou art a welcome month to me.
Thou bring'st the hope of those calm skies,
And that soft time of sunny showers,
When the wide bloom, on earth that lies,
Seems of a brighter world than ours.

W. C. Bryant.

A VALEDICTION.

Across the gulf of hurrying years,
Old friends I reach a hand to you;
We met in Youth's glad morning time,
Life's fairy bells were all in chime,
Its melodies were true.
But now the stream is deeper grown,
And ruder frets life's feverish din,
A graver harmony now swells,
A sadder note haunts e'en the bells
That rang our summer in.
If I have kept the oldtime faith,
If I have made my living true,
If I through weary workings wrought,
Have given my own fair deed or thought,
I give that gain to you.
Your ardent thought became my fire,
Your steadfast faith my beacon light,
I watched your white lines from afar,
Your dauntless love like some sweet star,
Has led me through the night.

And so to-day I keep the feast,
With all good souls Thanksgiving make;
To me, this old earth fairer seems,
Because you dreamed your tender dreams,
I glory for your sake.

Class of 1880.

Kate L. Brown.

BRIDGEWATER NORMAL ASSOCIATION.

THE third biennial Winter Meeting of the Bridgewater Normal Association was held at the United States Hotel, Boston, Friday evening, March 4. The company began to gather about six o'clock, and before supper was announced the parlors were well filled with graduates, who greeted each other as heartily as the sons and daughters of Bridgewater always do when they meet. Veterans, who were here far back in the "forties," mingled with students still in school, and with graduates of all intermediate ages. It was especially pleasant to notice that so many of the quite recent graduates were present, taking their rightful place as active members of the Association.

At the dinner table President Russell, Supt. of Schools, Brockton, had upon his right Secretary Dickinson and Gen. F. A. Walker, and on his left Principal A. G. Boyden, of Bridgewater. After an hour and a half of busy work the President called the company to order for the next part of the evening's entertainment.

Gen. Walker of our Board of Visitors was introduced as the first speaker. He regretted that the Chairman, Mr. Scudder, who had been expected, was unable to be present. He would not endeavor to fill his place by offering any unpremeditated remarks to such an audience. Gen. Walker spoke highly of the good work done by the school, and paid a warm tribute to the present Principal and to the valued services which he has rendered the cause of education in this state and throughout New England.

Mr. Dickinson described the conditions which led to the establishment of Normal Schools. Fifty years ago the public schools had lost their hold upon the public. Private schools were numerous and nearly half the children of the state were in them. Normal Schools were founded to provide

for better teaching and they have produced a revolution in the methods of instruction. The public schools have regained their influence, and now contain some ninety per cent of the children of school age. He believed that the improvement in the schools, which is demanded that they may better fit the children for the business of life, is to come through better methods of teaching rather than through added subjects of instruction. If the children are taught by having their minds brought in contact with the things, if they are taught to observe and think for themselves, they will come out of the schools with well-trained minds, with the power to originate, and to do what is required of them in life. Mr. Dickinson urged the graduates to be loyal to the teachings of the Normal School in their teaching in their own schools, for what the schools need is real teaching.

Mr. Boyden pointed out some of the reasons for the strong bond of union, which has often been remarked as existing among the graduates of Bridgewater, and which makes their gatherings truly reunions. One cause of this heartiness of sympathy is found in the spirit of the institution instilled into it by the first Principal, who believed that teaching is a high and noble profession, worthy of the exercise of one's best powers. Allied to this is the high standard of the work, which was established in the beginning and which has always been maintained. Another cause is that this is a school for both young men and young women. Each is helped by meeting the other in the class-room and each has an honorable ambition to be well esteemed by the other. Old and young come together at these meetings, old graduates send young friends to the school and so the interest is maintained and perpetuated.

Mr. Boyden gave a brief report upon the present condition of the school, which now contains more than two hundred students, doing good work. The appliances of the school are constantly increasing, the latest addition being a new telescope. Other things are still needed; one of the chief wants at present is a suitable Gymnasium, and it is hoped that this may be secured before long.

The mention of the telescope naturally led to the introduction of the founder of the telescope fund, Mr. H. L. Sawyer, of the Bennet School,

Boston, who expressed the pleasure he felt at having been instrumental in helping the school.

Other speakers were Mr. G. A. Walton, Agent of the Board of Education, Mr. T. A. Mead of the Eliot School, Boston, President of the Bridgewater Club, Mr. Meserve of the Prescott School, Boston, Mr. J. Milton Hall, of Providence, President of the American Institute of Instruction, and Mr. Barnes, of the Bigelow School, Boston, all of whom spoke warmly of the School. Mr. Mead and Mr. Hall invited those present to attend the meetings of the Associations of which they are the heads.

During the evening, letters of regret were read from Mr. Scudder, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Winship, all of whom were kept away by ill health. The meeting unanimously adopted resolutions of sympathy for Mr. Martin in his long illness, and of hope that he may soon be restored to health.

After the speaking, the time was spent socially until the members were obliged to leave for their homes, thankful for the stroke of genius which has secured a biennial meeting every year.

LOCALS.

An editorial club—a pencil.

The Dickens Club still continues its sessions.

The third floor reporter reports by proxy, this month.

We sympathize with Mr. Boylston in his late Lyceum difficulty.

Why should plants flourish in No. 47? Because there is a gardner there.

The lecture on Lincoln, by Ex-Gov. Long was much enjoyed by those who heard it.

Why are the fellows on the third floor like Henry VIII? Because they pomp adore.

What young lady of this school has the most appropriate name? The one who is called well.

The number of cornet soloists is increasing, we have heard of no deaths among them as yet, but we are prepared for the blow.

What's in a name? Why not call a prolate spheroid an oblong cube if it expresses the unfortunate senior's idea of the thing?

Student of Psychology, reading advertisement of "Diamond Dyes," musingly, "Dies, does it?"

Diamond, carbon—inorganic matter—it can't be there must be some mistake. I'll take it into the class."

Instructor, beginning a course of lessons upon minerals with the Juniors. Now, what are the principal things we get out of the earth? Youth from a rural district, confidently, Worms.

The ocarina is becoming very popular among the students. For a small bird it makes a loud noise but we think it a fine way of amusing ones self. In fact this Fitzgerald is very Eddiefying like Weis.

Un peu d'observation.

Ne jugez jamais un Normal d'après le parapluie qu'il porte.

Pourquoi?

Il est rare que ce soit le sien!

What is meant by a *Brown study*? A study in which you examine the object of thought (he not being aware of your scrutiny) 1st as a whole, 2nd etc. N. B. This explanation is not given in the Dictionary of Phrase and Fable.

The program of the last Lyceum, despite the small audience, was well received. The Summary of News, by Mr. Ballou was pointed and instructive, while the debate on the Knights of Labor question excited considerable interest.

Instructor of class in Sub-Senior Arithmetic, speaking of ratios, remarks that we cannot have a ratio as 4 books to 4 horses because the numbers must be "of the same denomination." Member of the Virgil class, (aside)—"Should think there was some relation between books and horses."

A bit of conversation.

"Good deal of sickness in town lately."

"Indeed, what's the trouble?"

"Well it is, it is,—Oh, you know what that is you put in water to make it soft."

"Ammonia?"

"Yes, that's it, ever so many got it."

At a special meeting of the Athletic Association, it was voted that Messrs. Bodfish, Louis and Parker be allowed to become members by signing the constitution and paying the necessary fee. An assessment was also voted, to meet the current expenses of the Association. The Association now numbers fifty-three members. The material

for the "tug of war" frame has been purchased and will soon be in condition for use. With the revival of out-door sports the presence of the Association will doubtless be felt more than it can be at present.

It is stated as a fact by a young lady of acknowledged veracity that at one Normal School which she had the pleasure of visiting, many of the young men actually *suffered* from the cold even in the mildest of spring weather, suffered so much that they were under the painful necessity of *keeping their hands in their pockets*. At the same school it appeared to be fashionable for the young men to hold in their mouths *small wooden sticks, especially when engaged in conversation with young ladies*. I see horror expressed in the faces of our B. S. N. S. friends and would only say, *Beware*.

FOOTPRINTS.

She'd a great and varied knowledge, picked up at a female College, of quadratics, hydrostatics, and pneumatics very fast.

She was stuffed with erudition as you stuff a leather cushion, all the ologies of the Colleges, and the knowledges of the past.

She had studied the old lexicons of Peruvians and Mexicans, their theology, anthropology, and geology o'er and o'er.

She knew all the forms and features of the prehistoric creatures—ichthyosaurus, pleasiosaurus, megalosaurus, and many more.

She'd describe the ancient Tuscans, and the Basques, and the Etruscans, their griddles and their kettles, and the victuals that they gnawed.

She'd discuss—the learned charmer—the theology of Bramah, and the scandals of the Vandals, and the sandals that they trod.

She knew all the mighty giants and the master minds of science, all the learning that was turning in the burning mind of man.

But she couldn't prepare a dinner for a gaunt and hungry sinner, or get up a decent supper, for her poor, voracious papa, for she never was constructed on the old domestic plan.

Lynn Union.

PERSONALS.

Miss Martha Taylor is substituting in the Seaview Grammar School.

Mr. Frank Taylor has recently graduated a class from his school at Yarmouth.

Miss Susie Cobb will begin teaching in the Abington Grammar School the 4th of April.

Mr. H. L. Sawyer, the founder of the telescope fund, teaches in the Bennett School, Boston.

Mr. J. J. Burke of Loveland, Col., a graduate of this school, visited us during his stay in Mass.

We were honored by a visit from Ex-Governor Long and wife during their short stay in Bridgewater.

Mr. G. Austin Smith has finished his engagement at Orleans and expects to be back to Bridgewater after the April recess.

It seemed very natural to see Mr. E. Atkinson at Normal Hall again. He began teaching in Weymouth the 14th of March.

Mr. Mackey, principal of the Grammar Department of the School of Observation, Bridgewater, is taking a short course in mathematics during the March vacation.

Among the recent visitors were Miss Alice Emerson, a teacher of the Plymouth Normal School, N. H., Misses Helen Woods, Grace Luther, Susie Walker, Louise Wadsworth, Susie Cobb and Annie Lillis.

LYCEUM ORDER OF EXERCISES.

March 18, 1887.

Duet, Instrumental,	Miss Dove and Mrs. Reed
Reading,	Miss Rich
Song,	Miss Field
Reading,	Miss Edson

Debate.

Question, Resolved, That Canada is right in her attitude on the Fishery Question.

Disputants,	{ Misses Alden and DeNormandy
	{ Messrs. Scully and Long
Vocal Duet,	Misses Field and Shaw

April 8, 1887.

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